



CALIFORNIA DEPARTMENT OF WATER RESOURCES

NEWS FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

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Drought Barrier Construction Requires Delta Detours

Boaters Are Reminded To Avoid West False River during Busy Memorial Day Weekend

SACRAMENTO — The Department of Water Resources (DWR) is advising boaters who intend to enjoy the Memorial Day weekend in the Sacramento-San Joaquin Delta that construction of an emergency drought barrier will require them to detour around West False River.

A map showing the waterways that boaters can use in the area [is available here](#), with travel time estimates and navigation instructions.

Construction on the barrier began two weeks ago and is expected to continue to mid-June. West False River will not be available to boaters until the barrier is removed no later than mid-November to avoid the flood season. Removal is expected to take 45 to 60 days.

The barrier will help deter the tidal push of saltwater from San Francisco Bay into the central Delta. The approximately 750-foot-wide barrier will span the river and prevent boat traffic from passing.

Keeping saltwater from the central Delta is a priority, as water there is used by Delta residents and farms and by residents of Contra Costa, Alameda and Santa Clara counties.

Typically when saltwater threatens to encroach deeper into the Delta, water project operators repel it either by slowing the pumping of water from the Delta or increasing the amount of water flowing into the Delta from upstream reservoirs.

In this fourth year of drought, Delta pumping by the state and federal water projects is already negligible, and it takes three to five days for fresh water released from Lake Oroville or Shasta Lake to reach the Delta. An emergency barrier will provide an additional tool to help limit salinity intrusion.

The emergency barrier also will help mitigate a worst-case circumstance this summer in which upstream reservoirs lack sufficient water to meet the minimum outflow requirements to limit Delta salinity intrusion.

To learn about all the actions the state has taken to manage our water system and cope with the impacts of the drought, visit [Drought.CA.Gov](#).

Every Californian should take steps to conserve water. Find out how at [SaveOurWater.com](#).

Conservation – the wise, sparing use of water – remains California’s most reliable drought management tool. Each individual act of conservation, such as letting the lawn go brown or replacing a washer in a faucet to stop a leak, makes a difference over time.

Information on DWR’s website about emergency drought barriers [is available here](#).

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The Department of Water Resources operates and maintains the State Water Project, provides dam safety and flood management and inspection services, assists local water districts in water management and water conservation planning, and plans for future statewide water needs.



Boating Detours around Emergency Drought Barrier

Travel Time Estimates- South Delta (Discovery Bay to San Joaquin River)

- A** Route for large-mast vessels: 40 to 45 minutes from Discovery Bay north to Old River keeping right at Frank's Tract going north up to the San Joaquin River (Deep Water Channel)
- B** Route for smaller vessels: 40-50 minutes from Discovery Bay north to Old River, west to Sand Mound Slough, west on Dutch Slough towards the San Joaquin River past Big Break (see note).

Travel Time Estimates- entral Delta (Bethel Island to San Joaquin River)

- C** 30 minutes from Taylor Slough or Piper Slough marinas north towards False River and north up Fishermans Cut.
- D** 30-40 minutes from Bethel Island marinas south to Sand Mound Slough, west on Dutch Slough towards the San Joaquin River past Big Break (see note).

Note: Maintain course as far north as possible in main channel of Dutch Slough going past Big Break.
5 mile-per-hour limit on both Sand Mound Slough and Dutch Slough.

Detours identified are subject to changes in natural flow conditions which are beyond the control of California Department of Water Resources.

